Initial: 7/94

Reviewed/revised: 5/21/08

Revision: 3

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS PRACTICAL SKILL ORTHOSTATIC BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT

Approved by:	Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:	
Page 1 of 1	

Purpose:			Indications:	
To measure postural blood pressure changes in patients with suspected hypovolemia.			Patients with suspected hypovolemia.	
Advantages:	Disadvantages:	Complications:		Contraindications:
Multiple readings enable monitoring of patient's	Improperly sized cuff may give	Change in position may cause hypotension with associated		Supine systolic blood pressure <90
hemodynamic stability	false reading	symptoms		

Take and record systolic and diastolic blood pressure and pulse while patient is supine

Have patient stand, assisting as necessary

Observe carefully for associated signs and symptoms, protecting patient from falling

After 30 seconds, repeat blood pressure and pulse measurements
(A drop in systolic pressure of 20 mmHg or increase in pulse rate of 20/minute is significant)

NOTES:

 Orthostatic (postural) hypotension is a drop in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure with a change from supine to sitting or standing position. It is generally accompanied by dizziness, blurred vision and/or syncope.